FBIS DAILY REPORT

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EXILES STAGE MARCH TO PROTEST DICTATORSHIPS

PY222257 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0012 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Dec (TELAM) -- Chilean, Paraguayan, and Uruguayan residents staged a march tonight starting from the intersection of Cordoba Avenue and Callao Avenue to their respective embassies in repudiation of the military dictatorships which hold to the imperialist mandates through their national security doctrines, as stated in the communique calling for the march.

This march was organized by the Solidarity Committee with Chile, the Paraguayan political youth in exile, and Uruguayan residents in Argentina.

A proclamation was read in front of the Uruguayan Embassy stating that the Committee of Uruguayan residents in exile along with all the Argentine people are joining their efforts and their voice in the struggle to wipe out once and for all the evil dictatorship which has tortured, massacred, and starved the Uruguayan people and workers for 10 years.

After the document was read, slogans were chanted urging the military to quit now and to call elections immediately without any restrictions, asking for a free and sovereign constitutional assembly, and hailing the Uruguayan working class.

The following slogans were chanted during the march: Down with the dictatorships of Stroessner, Alvarez, and Pinochet; Release and present all Latin American political prisoners in person.

FURTHER ON CASE AGAINST FORMER PRESIDENT BIGNONE

Imprisonment Exemption Denied

PY222312 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Dec 83 p 9

[Excerpt] Former President Reynaldo Bignone was yesterday denied exemption from imprisonment in the case concerning the 1976 disappearances of Communist party members Luis Steimberg and Luis Garcia while they were performing military service, the lawyers of the missing persons' families reported yesterday.

In his rejection of the exemption request, Judge Carlos Olivieri stated that he had "prima facie" evidence that Bignone was guilty of illegal detention, abuse of authority, malfeasance, perjury, and covering up of crimes. However, he did not call for the preventive arrest of the former president. Both Steimberg and Garcia were serving in the National Military College, which was headed by Bignone at the time of their disappearance. Bignone is being defended by his administration's justice minister, Jaime Lucas Lenon.

Judge Requests Arrest

PY231135 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Trial Judge Carlos Alfredo Olivieri has asked for the arrest of former de facto President Reynaldo Bignone. The request has been made to President Raul Alfonsin in his capacity of commander in chief of the Armed Forces. The request is made because of the accusations made against the former president for covering up of crimes, illegal detention in several cases, and perjury.

Havana Notes Charges

PA211821 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] A court is drawing up charges against former Argentine President General Reynaldo Bignone for the arrest and disappearance of two members of the Communist Youth Federation. The youths -- Luis Pablo Steimberg and Luis Daniel Garcia, were cadets at the National Military Academy when Bignone was director of that military institution.

FORMER ARMY COMMANDER EXEMPTED FROM PRISON

PY220220 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Dec 83 p 1

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires (NA-DYN) -- Former Army Commander in Chief Cristino Nicolaides was exempted from imprisonment yesterday in the court case brought against him and fellow former military junta member Admiral Ruben Oscar Franco on charges of having obstructed the investigation into the disappearance of Communist Party member Ines Ollero, while former President Reynaldo Bignone was put on trial in connection with the disappearance of two conscripts who also belonged to that party.

Nicolaides and his defense lawyer appeared before Judge Jorge Garcia Mendez for almost an hour, and were questioned about why the former commander had failed to provide information on Miss Ollero's abduction by an Army unit operating from the Navy Mechanics School (ESMA) in 1977. Andres Marutian, the defense lawyer, announced before the hearing that Nicolaides' request that he be exempted from imprisonment -- which had been filed on Monday -- had been approved by the judge.

Nicolaides, for his part, told the press, before seeing Judge Garcia, that he was willing to "cooperate" in clearing up the case. "I've always believed, and still believe, in justice," he added, "and that's why I'm here."

When queried about the list of Army staff mentioned in connection with Miss Ollero's disappearance, Nicolaides referred the journalist to the writ he had sent to the court while he was still commander -- which the court regarded as insufficient. When this was mentioned to him, Nicolaides replied: "We will see."

Franco is to appear before Judge Garcia today.

JUDGE HEARING 'TRIPLE A' CASE THREATENED

PY222258 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1131 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Dec (NA) -- Federal Judge Jose Nicasio Dibur and members of his staff were warned that if they don't end their investigations into the Triple A organization, they will be killed, Judge Dibur himself has said.

One of these warnings took the form of the near total wrecking of a car belonging to one of Judge Dibur's assistants at noon yesterday near the court house.

Dibur has notified Federal Judge Ciro de Martini about these threats, which began while he was in Venezuela investigating former Ambassador Hidalgo Sola's disappearance.

The threats against Judge Dibur have also reportedly included his family, but Dibur refrained from mentioning what they were.

A gang of unidentified individuals seriously damaged the car of a court employee which was parked near the courthouse, and left the following warning note inside the car: "This is a warning just in case investigations into the Triple A continue."

Court sources reported that threats were also made against the two court secretaries, Alejandro Oliden and Eduardo Zotele, and two court employees.

Anonymous calls were made to persuade Judge Dibur to discontinue the investigations into the activities of the ultrarightist organization "Triple A." It has been learned that subsequently the callers, through an intimidating note, identified themselves as members of that organization.

METALWORKERS THREATEN TO TAKE OVER FACTORIES

PY222302 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] On instructions from President Raul Alfonsin, Presidential Secretary General German Lopez has submitted to the Education and Justice Ministry a copy of the press declaration made by a leader of the Metalworkers Union [UOM], remarks which are punishable by Article 209 of the Penal Code.

According to press reports, UOM leaders announced that they are going to take control of the factories, with the executives still inside, at any time if management persists in delaying resolution of the union's salary demands.

The presidential secretary general's note to the education and justice minister says that the executive branch wishes to put an end to any attempt to violate current laws for the solution of labor conflicts, because actions of this nature can represent a return to the methods that characterized the condemnable plan of struggle carried out by the General Labor Confederation during the Arturo Illia administration.

It should be pointed out that Article 209 of the Penal Code states: Anyone publicly inciting criminal activity against a person or institution will receive a sentence ranging from 1 month to 4 years in prison, according to the seriousness of the crime, and other circumstances established in Article 41 of the Penal Code.

BRIEFS

NEW PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER -- Buenos Aires, 19 Dec (TELAM) -- The national Executive Branch today designated Jorge Federico Sabato presidential adviser with the rank of secretary of state. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2212 GMT 19 Dec 83 PY]

NEW YPF CHAIRMAN INSTALLED -- Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (TELAM) -- At noon today, Public Works and Services Minister Roque Carranza installed Dr Hector Juan Fiorioli as new president of Government Oil Deposits. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1651 GMT 13 Dec 83 PY]

NEW AIDES-DE-CAMP DESIGNATED -- President Raul Alfonsin has designated Major Nestor Greppi, Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Augusto Marciel, and Commander Joaquin Agustin Stella as his new aides-de-camp. [Summary] [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 17 Dec 83 p 11 PY]

NEW FEDERAL POLICE CHIEF -- Buenos Aires, 9 Dec (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin today designated Commissioner General Antonio di Vietri as future chief of the Argentine Federal Police. Di Vietri is still on active duty and is the current police technical superintendant. Commissioner Major Dardo Jose Luis Rodriguez has been designated deputy chief of the Federal Police. Rodriguez is the current director general of goods and equipment, and will be promoted to commissioner general. [Text] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2230 GMT 9 Dec 83 PY]

JARPA CITED ON POLITICAL PARTY NORMALIZATION

PY221420 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Chilean Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa has stated that it is essential to normalize the situation of political parties. The interior minister made this statement during a speech he delivered at a seminar on the legal status of political parties organized by the Center of Public Studies.

Jarpa noted that before political dialogue with the opposition is resumed, it is essential to normalize the political party system. He added that the 1980 Constitution was necessary to reorganize government after the 1973 crisis.

Jarpa said that the 1980 Constitution establishes the proper guidelines for the executive and judicial branches and for the political activity of [word indistinct].

Regarding Congress, Jarpa said there are hopes it will function while this regime is in power so that its faults can be detected and its operations improved, as this cannot be done during a civilian government since its trend is unpredictable.

The interior minister also noted that there is interest in normalizing the situation of political parties in order to establish the true representative nature of these movements and to recognize them as valid participants in a dialogue.

PINOCHET AUTHORIZES RETURN OF AMNESTY MEMBER

PY221317 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Chilean envoy Monica Madariaga has reported that President Pinochet has authorized the temporary return of Chilean exile Jose Zalaquett, the present [as heard] secretary general of Amnesty International.

DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT OF PEOPLE IN EXILE HELD

PY230115 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] About 50 relatives of people in exile held a demonstration in front of the Cathedral at 1230 today. The demonstrators displayed a blue canvas with white letters calling for an end to exile. It said: All Chileans must return to our fatherland. The demonstrators were warmly applauded by many people in the area. Carabineros agents did not intervene. The demonstrators then folded the canvas, once again expressing their discontent with government policies regarding the serious problem of people in exile.

EXILED FAMILY DENIED ENTRY; RETURNED TO SPAIN

PY210126 Paris AFP in Spanish 1355 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 20 Dec (AFP) -- A family that had planned to spend Christmas in Chile after 9 years in exile in Europe was detained at the Santiago airport and then flown back to Madrid, relatives of the family reported today.

Kramilin Hidalgo Naveas, his wife, Constanza del Canto; and his son, Jose Miguel, 14, had travelled from Madrid on a regularly scheduled flight, according to information provided by their relatives, who came to the airport to meet them.

Airport authorities told the Naveas family that there were two decrees issued by the Interior Ministry banning their entry in the national territory.

Similar cases have occurred at the Merino Benitez Airport in recent weeks after the government stopped publishing lists of exiles allowed to return.

The Catholic Church and other humanitarian organizations estimate that from 70,000 to 200,000 Chileans have sought political asylum or been deported to various countries over the past 10 years.

HAVANA REPORTS DEMAND FOR RELEASE OF PRISONERS

PA221915 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Scores of relatives of political prisoners rallied in Santiago, Chile demanding the release of their dear ones, who have been holding a hunger strike for the past 9 days. The demonstration was staged near the Justice Ministry building, where the participants displayed posters demanding the elimination of the National Information Center, the fascist regime's secret police.

The hunger strike was declared on 12 December by approximately 100 political prisoners demanding better treatment from prison authorities.

Meanwhile, the Santiago court of appeals turned down a writ of habeas corpus for over 3,000 political exiles who left the country or were deported following the 11 September 1973 coup.

CARABINEROS CLASH WITH SANTIAGO STREET VENDORS

PY221520 Paris AFP in Spanish 1345 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 22 Dec (AFP) -- According to eyewitnesses, violent incidents took place in the Chilean capital last night when the police tried to dislodge hundreds of street vendors offering Christmas wares.

The government confirmed that 18 street vendors were arrested at the end of an intense battle in which the militarized Carabineros police used teargas bombs against the vendors' stones and fire barriers at some street corners in the Patronato neighborhood in northern Santiago.

The clash took place when the street vendors arrived in the neighborhood after having been expelled from downtown Santiago, where they were trying to peddle plastic toys, handkerchiefs, tablecloths, mirrors, and similar wares imported from Taiwan.

In earlier incidents, the Carabineros used water cannon and police dogs to dislodge from downtown Santiago some 1,500 street vendors, most of them unemployed cripples and blind persons.

The street vendors have become commonplace in downtown Santiago as a result of the rising unemployment in recent years. The official rate of unemployment is currently 16.8 percent.

AD DECLARATION CALLS FOR PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

PY230130 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] The Democratic Alliance [AD] has released a public declaration on the national situation. The declaration says that to resolve the situation currently affecting the country, there is no option other than reestablishing the citizens' right to choose their own officials, and restore the people's rights and dignity.

The declaration also states that the regime is waning, and that no matter how it tries to disguise this, the facts show its deterioration. It adds that in the last 10 years the country has not developed, the workers' salaries have deteriorated considerably, almost all production and business activities have gone bankrupt or nearly bankrupt, unemployment has reached catastrophic levels, and the financial system has fallen into disarray.

The AD declaration goes on to say that the people responsible for the economic situation cannot avoid their responsibility, and that they are not either technically or morally capable of leading the process that must be carried out in the country to achieve economic reactivation. In conclusion, the declaration says that to find a real solution, it is essential to reestabiish the citizens' right to choose their own officials and restore the people's rights and dignity.

UNDER SECRETARY REACTS TO SILES' REMARKS

PY230128 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpt] We have a relay from (Carmen Castro) on a statement made by the under secretary of foreign relations regarding Chilean-Bolivian relations.

[Begin relay] Good afternoon. The under secretary of foreign relations, Humberto Julio Reyes, specifically and emphatically stated that the reestablishment of relations between Chile and Bolivia cannot be subjected to prior conditions by Bolivia. These remarks were made by the under secretary in response to the remarks made in Lima by Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo, who said that his country will not renew relations with Chile without a prior guarantee of initiating negotiations on the maritime problem affecting the economic and social development of the Bolivian people. [end relay]

DECREE NAMING STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS PROMULGATED

PY231110 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] The executive branch today promulgated Decree No 1,641, which was proposed by the Interior Ministry, designating the following persons as members of the Council of State: Major General Eliodoro Gonzalez Arce, for the Army; Rear Admiral Adolfo Royg Franco, retired, for the Navy; Brigade General Ranulfo Efrain Gonzalez, retired, for the Air Force; agronomist Carlos Romero Pereira, for the agricultural sector; Dr Ramon Codas, for the livestock sector; Dr Julio Pompa, for the manufacturing sector; Jesus Manuel Pallares, for the commercial sector; and Enrique Benitez, for the labor sector.

JOURNALIST DETAINED ON 'ORDERS FROM HIGHER UP'

PY212339 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 21 Dec 83 p 4

[Text] ABC COLOR journalist Jesus Ruiz Nestosa was detained yesterday at about noon by Investigations Department personnel. The Investigations Department reported that Nestosa was arrested on "orders from higher up," but gave no reasons for the detention.

At about 1230, two plainclothes policemen arrived at the building housing the newspaper and said they wanted to show Ruiz Nestosa a book. When the journalist met the policemen in the reception room, one of them handed over an Investigations Department citation to him rather than a book. The citation was addressed to "Jose Luis Nestosa."

When the two policemen were told that there was no one with that name on this newspaper, they explained that the citation was for Jesus Ruiz Nestosa. They also invited ABC COLOR legal adviser Dr Jeronimo Angulo Gaston to accompany Nestosa to the police building.

The journalist and the two plainclothes policemen were taken to the Investigations Department headquarters in Dr Angulo Gaston's car. A third plainclothes policeman, who was waiting in a car in front of the building housing the paper, escorted the group.

At Investigations Department headquarters, Angulo Gaston requested a meeting with police Inspector Alberto Cantero, the director of the "political and related affairs" section, in order to learn the reasons for the detention of Nestosa. A police official told him that Inspector Cantero was not in his office. Ruiz Nestosa was then taken to one of the departments of the police building.

In the afternoon, Inspector Cantero officially confirmed that Nestosa was arrested on "orders from higher up." He said that the detainee will be allowed to receive visitors once in the morning and once in the afternoon, and that only authorized relatives will be allowed to visit him.

The Union of Paraguayan Journalists (SPP) released a communique yesterday in connection with the detention of Nestosa. The communique states that the SPP "is once again compelled to report the arbitrary detention of a fellow journalist. ABC COLOR journalist Jesus Ruiz Nestosa was arrested yesterday on 'orders from higher up,' and he is being held at the Investigations Department of the Capital Police.

"Faced once again with the curtailment of the freedom of one of its members, the SPP hereby repudiates and condemns this repressive action that violates freedom of expression, an elementary human and constitutional right.

"This authoritarian procedure has rapidly disproved a recent statement by Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro, who said that the government would promote harmonious coexistence among the Paraguayan people.

"On voicing its concern over the fate of fellow journalist Ruiz Nestosa, the SPP urges the government to release him immediately, in keeping with constitutional guarantees and with the elementary rules of respect for the rights of citizens, rights that Paraguay cannot disregard if justice and universal principles are to prevail."

NEWSPAPER FILES SUIT AGAINST RADIO PROGRAM

PY230132 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 22 Dec 83 p 8

[Excerpt] This morning Aldo Zuccolillo, director of the newspaper ABC COLOR, filed a lawsuit against the radio program "Voice of the Colorado Party," charging alleged crimes against the public order and personal liberty, crimes that are classified in Articles 1 and 4 of Law No 209. The lawsuit was filed in the criminal court presided over by Duty Judge Dr Edmundo Vittone. The plaintiff's lawyer is Dr Geronimo Angulo Gaston.

The document submitted by the plaintiff includes evidence supporting the charge that the radio program is engaged in an increasingly intense campaign to instigate violence. Zuccolillo notes that on 17 December 1983, "Voice of the Colorado Party" alluded to the newspaper ABC COLOR in the following way:

"If the opposition rag continues with its campaign, we also have the right to rouse the Colorado people against ABC COLOR, which can be totally destroyed by our assault battalions..."

The document submitted by Zuccolillo also states that "we are undoubtedly facing a campaign clearly designed to instigate violence. Thus, not only have the newspaper's facilities, but its very existence as well, been seriously jeopardized."

The document asks the judge to investigate the charge and find out who made this threat against ABC COLOR. It also requests that the judge ask Radio Nacional of Paraguay and the Undersecretariat of Information and Culture of the presidency whether the radio program "Voice of the Colorado Party" has a managing director, and whether the statement read on the 17 December 1983 program was previously approved by the director of the radio network.

The document also requests that the judge ask the Colorado Party government junta whether it had authorized the text of the threatening statements made during the above program.

COLORADO FACTION OPPOSES CONDITIONS ON EXILES

PY222330 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 22 Dec 83 p 10

[Text] The Executive Board of the ANR [National Republican Association] in Exile and Resistance has decided to accept the government's invitation for exiles to return to Paraguay, but it did not accept the conditions set forth by the government. These conditions are unconstitutional, the president of that party organization, Pedro A. Caballero, told ABC COLOR in a telex sent from Cordoba, Argentina.

Caballero was questioned over the telephone by ABC COLOR regarding the announcement made by Interior Minister Sabino A. Montanaro stating that all exiles, with the exception of Laino and Resck, may return.

GOVERNMENT, SHINING PATH MANEUVERS REPORTED

PY221105 Paris AFP in Spanish 1924 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Lima, 21 Dec (AFP) -- Yesterday's sighs of relief at the announcement that the Shining Path terrorist organization was raising the white flag of truce in the three departments where it has been staging a bloody subversive adventure are turning into a mixture of frustration, skepticism, and astonishment today since it is now suspected that the country was subjected to a bizarre hoax.

Today correspondents in Ayacucho, Apurimac, and Huancavelica Departments, located in southeast Peru, believe that a strategist from the Armed Forces - specifically from the Marines -- was pursuing some inexplicable objective.

After purchasing white sheets, the Marines painted the symbols of the hammer and sickle on them in red and left in small patrols for the hot districts dominated by the guerrillas of the Maoist-Marxist-Leninist Peruvian Communist Party (which is the Shining Path's official name).

Hasty telephone calls this morning from correspondents to their offices in Lima reported that eyewitnesses saw the uniformed military raising the truce flags and asking the peasants to have confidence and not to flee. On the other hand, the simultaneous killing yesterday of another Civil Guard in Ayacucho, a bomb blast that injured a minor, and the murders of a police informer and a taxi driver are at odds with the feigned truce.

Yesterday's early morning killing in Lima of General Carlos Errea (not Herrera as it was initially reported), director of the Peruvian Investigative Police training school (PIP -- a plainclothes police agency), seems better fitted to a terrorist action than to common criminals. Indeed, General Errea was the founder and organizer of the Anti-Terrorism Department 3 years ago, at a time when he was the head of the State Security Division.

In the past, the Shining Path organized retaliatory actions against the agencies responsible for pursuing them. In their first attack in Lima, Shining Path mistakenly attacked a PIP station which had nothing to do with the investigation of it, leaving a toll of two policemen dead, several injured, and the station's building virtually destroyed.

LA CRONICA newspaper, published by the government, states today that the call for a truce is nothing but a trick aimed at having the Shining Path achieve the recognized status of a fighting force. Thus far, they have only proven that they are merciless slayers of peasants.

Analysts say that a truce seems incongruent. It would be like asking for a recess to reconstruct and rearm its cadres who obviously have been largely dispersed and confused as a result of the investigation's effectiveness. Both the pro-government and independent press agree in stressing that the state of affairs of the sickening war, as President Fernando Belaunde has termed it, cannot be quenched by any means other than the military.

This is even more true not that the intelligence services have managed to arrest the second or third Shining Path deputy, Emilio Diaz Martinez, while the arrest of Shining Path's second in command, Julio Cesar Mezzich, is rumored, demonstrating the authorities will in breaking up the subversive movement by trying to detain Abimael Guzman, Shining Path's top leader.

HAVANA REPORTS MINERS' HUNGER STRIKE IN LIMA

PA230020 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Some 1,800 Peruvian miners from the (Cata-Acari) and (Maysamoc) deposits began a hunger strike this morning to protest the government's refusal to satisfy their demands.

The strikers, accompanied by their wives and children, have been in Lima for the past year demanding that their work places be reopened and that they be paid 9 month's wages. Graciela Lima, the president of the Miners' Group for Struggle, said that if their demands are not met, they will carry out similar measures in other regions of Peru. Graciela Lima also said that the (Cata-Acari) deposits have not been depleted, and that despite what the Peruvian Government is trying to make people believe, it is estimated that the mineral reserves have a lifespan of 10 more years.

Meanwhile, press reports from Lima say that the government has extended the state of emergency that was imposed on 10 provinces in the Andean region where armed groups operate for 60 more days. Most of these provinces, which are located in Ayacucho and Huancavelica Departments, have been in a state of emergency for the past year.

MILITARY HELICOPTER CRASHES WITH 19 ON BOARD

PY211105 Paris AFP in Spanish 1023 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Lima, 21 Dec (AFP) -- According to a communique from the Second Military Region, a Peruvian military helicopte carrying 19 persons crashed into the sea at 2250 GMT (1750 local time) yesterday, Tuesday, near Ventanilla, in the outskirts of Lima. The helicopter was returning from the northern part of the country, where it had been conducting support operations in the Condor mountain range, an area bordering Ecuador.

For the time being, it is not known whether there are any survivors. Search and rescue operations are underway involving Army and Air Force helicopters and Peruvian Navy patrol boats.

CONTADORA ISSUES BULLETIN ON 2-DAY MEETING

PA221505 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 22 Dec 83 pp 1, A-18

[Excerpt] In an information bulletin issued at the end of a 2-day meeting in Panama City, the Contadora Group stated the following:

Bulletin

The foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela met in Panama City on 20 and 21 December to progress on the work of the Contadora Group.

For this purpose, they analyzed the initiatives and recommendations issued by the technical meeting held at the level of deputy ministers and advisers on 1 and 2 December with the participation of the representatives of the nine countries.

As a result of this analysis, the Contadora Group foreign ministers drafted a proposal called "Norms for the Execution of the Commitments Established in the Document of Objectives" which covers aspects of regional security, politics, and joint action in the economic field. This will be presented for the consideration of the Central American governments.

The norms provide for specific actions in applying the Document of Objectives. They will also serve as basic reference elements for the work of the fifth Joint Conference of Foreign Ministers scheduled for 7, 8, and 9 January, dates that coincide with the first anniversary of the establishment of the Contadora Group.

The ministers of Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela once again express thanks for the Panamanian Government and people's hospitality and the honorable opportunity to meet with Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella.

Ministers Comment on Contadora

PA220340 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella told the Mexican, Venezuelan, and Colombian foreign ministers today that the Contadora Group's greatest achievement this year was the prevention of an armed conflict in Central America. The foreign ministers met with De la Espriella this afternoon.

The president said that peace does not appear out of thin air, rather, it must be built, which is not easy to do. He added that the meeting that the Contadora heads of state held in Cancun, Mexico was timely because it prevented an armed clash in the region. De la Espriella also mentioned, among the group's achievements, the fact that the Central American nations came closer to engaging in dialogue, and the major result of the foreign ministers' hard work: the 21-point Document of Objectives that will be presented to and discussed with the five Central American foreign ministers on 7-8 January 1984 on Contadora Island.

The president stressed that the difficult part is probably just beginning now, inasmuch as political willingness on the part of the five countries' heads of state will be necessary if any effort to secure peace is to prove successful.

Meanwhile, Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor said that the Contadora Group has not been shipwrecked, in that it has realized significant political achievements:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Foreign Secretary, rumors have circulated that the Contadora effort has been shipwrecked. Are you ministers bringing a life preserver to this meeting?

[Sepulveda] I would like to dispel any false notion that Contadora has been shipwrecked. This is simply not true. We are involved in earnest, responsible work that meets a political and diplomatic need. In my opinion, at this meeting, as at all others, we have made substantial progress toward the achievement of a climate of peace in Central America.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Secretary, will it be possible to benefit from this progress?

[Sepulveda] That is our very purpose, and we have very specific proposals to that end. [end recording]

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano was also interviewed by Televisora Nacional upon his arrival at the presidential palace:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, can we expect a specific outcome from this new round of talks?

[Zambrano] It is the Panamanian foreign minister who should discuss what is happening, or perhaps the Colombian foreign minister. We will see.

[Reporter] Panama is not the only member of the Contadora Group, which consists of four countries, Mr Minister.

[Zambrano] We have been involved in an intensive effort, and we are sure that it will bear positive fruit in the next few days.

[Reporter] There have been rumors of an imminent failure of the group. Do you think that this is true?

[Zambrano] We don't know the meaning of the word failure. We are full of both patience and optimism.

[Reporter] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Havana Report

PA222304 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella and the foreign ministers of Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia have declared that the efforts undertaken by the Contadora Group to date have been positive.

In a televised appearance, the Panamanian head of state said that one of the group's definite achievements was the prevention of an armed conflict in Central America, while noting that the group's most significant accomplishment in 1983 was its promotion of dialogue among the area's nations.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministers of Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia expressed their optimism about the Contadora Group's future, and agreed on the efforts that were made and advances that were secured toward the restoration of peace in Central America.

EL SALVADOR

STATE OF SIEGE NULLIFIED BY NEW CONSTITUTION

PA230301 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0049 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The enactment of the new Constitution 2 days ago has annulled the state of siege in El Salvador, and for the time being no motion has been submitted to the Assembly for its renewal.

According to several deputies today, the state of siege, which has been in effect since March 1980, expired with the abolition of a 1962 decree that established the mechanisms that, until now, have permitted the state to take special measures and limit freedoms. The deputies added that to date, no bill has been to the Legislative Assembly that would limit the recently approved constitutional guarantees.

The Assembly had a session scheduled for this afternoon, the last of the year, but it was postponed until tomorrow morning.

The state of siege, which has been extended every month since March 1980, restricted freedom of expression, free transit, the inviolability of correspondence, and mass meetings for political purposes.

MAGANA ON NICARAGUAN ARMS SUPPLY, ELECTIONS

PA221700 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1419 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Madrid, 22 Dec 83 (EFE) -- Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana has told a Spanish newspaper that the guerrillas that operate in his country are supplied "from Nicaragua, nowhere else but Nicaragua."

"Armed subversion has but one launching pad: Nicaragua," Magana added, in an interview published today by the monarchic conservative newspaper ABC. "While Managua draws the world's attention by saying that for 2 years they have been on the verge of being invaded, they have not ceased for one instant to invade our country," he remarked. Magana said that early this month the Salvadoran Government detected "68 air incursions that parachuted arms and ammunition into Morazan region, where the guerrillas have more control."

The Salvadoran president expressed his "deep admiration" for the "specific quality" of the guerrillas and their protectors: "the art of twisting facts and finding someone to listen. Even the pro-Western and non pro-Soviet nations listen to and believe them" "They are masters of propaganda, artists in manipulating facts, veritable craftsmen in the art of handling lies," he said.

Magana said that he hoped that the United States will increase its aid to fight the guerrillas, "not only because we hope to rid ourselves of these scourges of armed subversion, that have lasted 4 years, but because of the repercussions it would have in American opinion for President Reagan's reelection..."

Regarding the 15 March 1984 presidential election, Magana thinks it is "very unlikely" that any of the rival parties will obtain a majority, because in order to win in the first elections, they must obtain 51 percent of the votes.

"I believe that the political proportions of the March 1984 presidential elections will not substantially change the results of the 1982 constitutional elections," Magana stated. In that election the Christian Democratic Party came in first, followed by the ultraright-wing Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance, the National Conciliation Party, and Democratic Action.

Magana said that El Salvador is tired "of the same old actors," although he declined to give an opinion on possible alliances. Magana said that he will not run for reelection and that he intends to live for a while in the United States, after he concludes his term (in June 1984).

TREASURY POLICE CHIEF ON DEATH SQUAD ENQUIRY

PA230257 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 21 Dec 83 p 1

[Excerpt] Today Colonel Nicolas Carranza, Treasury Police chief, said that Treasury Police units arrested a man in Santa Ana on Monday who is involved with a clandestine organization that directs the death squads.

Col Carranza did not disclose the man's name, because "he is still under investigation." "In accordance with the law," Col Carranza added, "we have 8 days to investigate and take him before the courts." He apologized to the newsmen for not providing more specific information about the arrested man, but he did say that a military rifle, ammunition, and other secret equipment were confiscated at the time of the arrest. This material will be presented to the court as evidence.

Col Carranza said that the Treasury Police, following orders issued by the high command and the Armed Forces general staff, are engaged in an investigation to discover the leaders of the death squads and determine the names of their members. Col Carranza was asked if Treasury Police officers and personnel were included in the investigations, and his reply was affirmative. "Thank God, however, no involvement by them has been proven."

He said that the Treasury Police, the National Guard, and the National Police are undertaking separate investigations into the activities of the death squads.

HIGH COMMAND 'SILENT' ON OFFICER'S ARREST

PA222300 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1210 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] The Armed Forces command has remained silent as to the true reason for the arrest of Captain Eduardo Ernesto Alfonso Avila, relatives and comrades-in-arms have reported.

The Armed Forces Command was asked about this issue a few days ago, but only said that he was arrested on the order of the high command. Thus, the reason for his arrest has not been disclosed: it must also be remembered that the officer has already been discharged.

Avila's relatives and comrades have declared that this was an arbitrary arrest, and that the procedure used and the fact that a request from other countries was involved prove that others intervene in our country even at the level of the smallest decisions.

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

PA230040 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Report by Raul Beltran Bonilla]

[Excerpts] According to military reports, the counterinsurgency operation that is underway in northern Morazan Department has entered its 6th consecutive day. New information from San Francisco Gotera, the capital of Morazan Department, some 170 km northeast of San Salvador, indicates that airborne troops were transported to an area on the Honduran border toward which the FMLN guerrillas are moving, following their retreat from positions in towns near Perquin, San Fernando, and Arambala.

The military reports maintained that on Wednesday airborne troops dismantled several leftist camps and a clandestine hospital that operated on the outskirts of San Fernando. Four troops and 2nd Lieutenant Marco Antonio Cuellar Gonzalez, the pilot of a Huey H-1 helicopter, were killed in this action. Gonzalez, who was shot several times, was flown to the heliport in San Francisco Gotera in his own helicopter by his copilot, but he died en route to the hospital.

Meanwhile, today military spokesmen said that all of the town in this area are under Army control. This was an area that the Armed Forces had not entered for almost a year, and as a result, the leftistswere free to move about as they wished.

Artillery fire was heard this morning in Villa El Triunfo, Estanzuelas, Nueva Granada, and Santiago de Maria, all in Usulutan Department.

In Chalatenango Department, 300 soldiers from Battalion (Siete arrived in helicopters from Honduras after receiving 36 days of training at U.S.-built military bases in Puerto Castilla.

In Ciudad Delgado, leftists attacked the electric substation early today. The attack was particularly aimed at the Treasury Police guards who protect the station. Two policemen were wounded in the attack, whcih lasted an hour, the official report noted. Finally, heavy fighting took place last night and early today in San Jose Guayabal, northeast of San Salvador, but no results have been disclosed. Communications with that town are still out following a rebel attack at 2200 yesterday.

FMLN COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON MORAZAN

PA220333 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Communique isssued by the General Command of the FMLN's Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade in El Salvador on 22 December -- read by announcer]

[Text] After the overwhelming blow inflicted by our forces in the Comandante Lilian Mercedes Letona northern group of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade on one of the strategic anti-guerrilla bases in Cacahuatique Hill, in which our forces defeated an entrenched battalion, costing the enemy more than 200 in dead, wounded, and prisoners, and seizing 50 rifles, mortars and other support weapons, Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, in an effort to recover from the defeat, staged a military operation against the northern section of Morazan Department with the political goal of reaching the department's northernmost villages, to terrorize and massacre the civilian population and allegedly to disorganize our organization in this department.

In the effort to do this, soldiers from the Paratroopers, Arce, Morazan, and Belloso Battalions and elite security corps Forces were concentrated in the area, supported by artillery, aircraft, and helicopters used as troop carriers. The majority of these units were sent as reinforcements to prevent the defeat of the Tecana Battalion. However, they not only failed to achieve their goal, they actually suffered many casualties in their attempt to reach the higher points of Cerro Cacahuatique. It took the enemy forces more than 3 days to reach their former positions, which they only regained after our forces withdrew and began rearguard harassment of the operation in Osicala and Ciudad Barrios.

When the enemy battalions began their advance toward the north, our forces began an incremental plan of resistance to oblige the enemy to engage its troops in Morazan, while several more of our units were preparing to strike at the enemy's rearguard.

When the enemy had reached the highest commitment of its reinforcements, and when it was already in Torola and Meanguera, our units, which were in other positons, began to attack the enemy's positions in the village of Ciudad Barrios. From here National Guard troops from the 3d Brigade fled in disarray toward the city's outskirts. Our units pursued them, surrounding them and wiping them out. The enemy sent airborne reinforements. Their first attempt to land was completely thwarted by our attack, and they suffered many casualties. Three helicopters were seriously damaged, and one pilot was killed. They had to land elsewhere.

In the afternoon, two more helicopters were damaged. Our units took advantage of the advance of the reinforcements, and yesterday, 21 December, in the afternoon, our units besieged both the reinforcements and the units that were in Ciudad Barrios, which were pursued by Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade units.

As a result of our attack, Colonel Domingo Monterrosa was forced to remove the paratroopers and Cazadores forces from San Miguel and to use them to reinforce the troops that were surrounded and that had already suffered numerous casualties in northern San Miguel Department.

Begining at 0500 today, our units from the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade tightened the noose, wiping out the enemy troops in Ciudad Barrios. Heavy fighting took place throughout the entire day of 22 December. Prisoners were taken and weapons were seized, while Col Monterrosa's troops were forced to flee Morazan Department in disarray. Our attack on their rearguard and the pressure that our units in Morazan have begun to apply at various points have been seriously complicating the withdrawal of the troops from Morazan.

The results of the operation, encirclement and persecution in Ciudad Barrios as of 22 December are as follows: The enemy has suffered more than 30 dead; 16 prisoners were taken; 40 G-3 rifles were seized; and 5 helicopters were rendered useless.

The Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, has issued a communique that is belied by the facts, because the Morazan operation has been defeated. Our forces are irregular; they do not hold territory, and they base their plans on mobility and surprise. The blow against the enemy positions in Ciudad Barrios is clear evidence of the lack of moral and military ability within the dictatorship's Army to contain our advance.

They were unable to reinforce and could not prevent the defeat of yet another of their positions, only a few kilometers from a site where they had more than 3,000 troops, along with dozens of helicopters, artillery pieces, and aricraft.

We do not invent figures for the weapons we seize, for the enemies taken, or for the dozens and sometimes hundreds of dead we inflict on the enemy, which the troops themselves must carry away. The casualties that we inflict on the Army are not speculation. The defense minister himself includes our figures in his annual report, and they coincide with our figures. The war will be lost by whoever loses weapons, men, and territory. The dictatorship's Army is losing all of this, and is becoming morally weaker by the day. If Col Monterrosa believes that reaching Perquin, remaining there less than 48 hours, and subsequently fleeing in disarray is a success, that is very characteristic of him, but our victories are solid. We control dozens of towns, and each day we take more prisoners and more weapons. We know that with this and the people's support, we will defeat them.

We want no more poverty for or exploitation of our people. Viva the heroic and invincible fighters of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade! Revolution or death, we will win!

[Signed] Commanders Ana Guadalupe Martinez, Juan Ramon Medrano, Ana Sonia Medina, Mercedes del Carmen Letona, Claudio Rabindranath Armijo, Jorge Melendez, Joaquin Villalobos.

HAVANA REPORTS 'HUGE' ANTI-INSURGENT CAMPAIGN

PA222252 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] A broad anti-insurgent campaign involving five army battalions was underway today in El Salvador's Morazan Department, which is a bastion for the FMLN guerrillas. Dozens of helicopters and A-37 planes supplied by the United States are being used in this operation.

According to Radio Venceremos, the official voice of the FMLN, Honduran Army troops concentrated in the border area of Morazan are also participating in this huge anti-guerrilla operation.

The rebel radio station added that in the last few hours the guerrillas have damaged at least four helicopters near Ciudad Barrios, which the rebels recovered during an attack on the Army's rear guard positions.

HAVANA CITES SAMAYOA ON LEVEL OF FMLN-FDR UNITY

PA221856 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] In Mexico City, Salvador Samayoa, leader of the Salvadoran political-military coalition, has said that the FMLN and FDR are now at the highest level of unity. Samayoa noted that the divisionist maneuvers on the part of the United States are being frustrated by the political conviction of the true Salvadoran revolutionaries.

HAVANA CITES CHURCH REPORT ON NOVEMBER DEATHS

PA221855 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] The Salvadoran archbishopric's legal assistance office revealed that in November, 525 civilians were murdered in that country by members of the Armed Forces, paramilitary groups, police, while 67 noncombatants were illegally arrested, 23 of whom are missing.

Early this month, the religious body submitted a report to the UN on the massacre of over 100 persons and the destruction of the community of Tenancingo by the Salvadoran Air Force, and a document on the existing connections between the death squads and the military authorities.

Other reports revealed the existence of a clandestine cemetery in Mejicanos, on the outskirts of San Salvador, near a local church, and that a local official had claimed that the bones found there dated back to colonial days.

HONDURAS

FOREIGN MINISTRY ADVISERS FROM AREA HOLD MEETING

PA220433 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 21 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] Advisers from the Costa Rican, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Honduran Foreign Ministries will start "a working meeting" today in the Juan Manuel Galvez Assembly Hall of the Honduran Central Bank that will last for an as yet unspecified period of time. The topics to be discussed are also unknown, as official sources refused to discuss the issue yesterday.

The Central American foreign ministry adviers' meeting, from which Nicaragua is being excluded, coincides with the Contadora Group (Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama) foreign ministers' meeting in Panama City, reportedly being held to try to organize a new meeting with their counterparts from the region in order to secure peace in the area.

Numerous advisers from the ministries arrived yesterday morning at the Toncontin International Airport, where they were welcomed by a Honduran Foreign Secretariat delegation.

Immediately afterward the advisers met for the first time with their Honduran counterparts. According to reports, they discussed political, social, and economic problems afflicting the region.

It is presumed that during today's working meeting, the advisers will try to reach points of agreement that can be introduced during the upcoming meeting with the Contadora Group in Panama.

NICARAGUA

COMMISSION EXCLUSION OF GOVERNMENT AID NOTED

PA221615 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Washington -- The Kissinger commission for Central America will recommend the exclusion of Nicaragua from U.S. economic aid in a report that it will submit on 10 January to the U.S. President, THE WASHINGTON POST has revealed.

In this connection the influential newspaper cites several sources interested in remaining anonymous but close to the Bipartisan Commission presided over by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. According to the newspaper, the commission's report will recommend that Nicaragua's Sandinist government be excluded from an economic program of mass aid to Central America. The 12 members of this commission, which was appointed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan in June, will link this economic aid to as-yet-unrevealed conditions unacceptable to the Sandinists, the paper adds, citing the sources.

FRENCH PRESIDENT'S LETTER PROMISES AID

PA230136 Managua EL NEUVO DIARIO in Spanish 19 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand says that his country is willing to render a positive response to Nicaragua's critical economic situation, particularly in the face of the human suffering and damage sustained by Nicaragua. French President Mitterrand has just responded to a letter from Commander Daniel Ortega. In his reply, Mitterrand says that he has already authorized a donation of medicine, the special extension until 1985 of aid approved in 1983, and the approval of financing for some urgent imports needed by Nicaragua.

The Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction yesterday issued a communique to thank the French people and Government on behalf of the Nicaraguan people for their solidarity and support, adding: "By this significant action, France clearly wishes to demonstrate its solidarity with the Nicaraguan people in the difficult times that we are facing today."

MISURASATA REPORTS U.S. BISHOP SCHLAEFFER ALIVE

PA221600 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1539 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Msgr Salvador Schlaeffer is alive and heading a mass escape of residents from the Francia Sirpe (Nicaragua) region who are trying to reach Honduran territory, a spokesman for the anti-Sandinist Miskito-Sumu-Rama-Sandinist Unity, MISURASATA, announced today in this capital.

Security Chief 'Doubts' Reports

PA222251 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2205 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Managua, 22 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan General Directorate of State Security said this afternoon that it doubts that Bluefields bishop Msgr Salvador Schlaeffer Berg "is alive."

"We would be relieved to know that he (the bishop) is alive," Commander Lenin Cerna, chief of the Nicaraguan state security service, said at a press conference. He admitted that "counterrevolutionary" and Honduran radio stations stated this morning that Bishop Schlaeffer is alive and moving toward Honduras with thousands of Miskito Indians. At the same time, Cerna indicated that the fact that it was Honduran stations that released those reports "forces us to doubt them."

According to Cerna, "criminal action" against the Bluefields bishop cannot be dismissed. The bishop was reportedly kidnapped on Tuesday and "murdered" on Wednesday in the Miskito village of Wisconsin, near the Honduran border. The security chief said that a number of things that have cropped up in the Catholic bishop's case indicate that it is a U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) plan "to obstruct the reunification measures, particularly as regards the Miskitos."

Communique Issued

PA230357 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry on 22 December 1983]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry wishes to inform the people that: On the morning of 22 December a telephone call was received from Anthony Quainton, U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, who informed us that he had received information from the State Department to the effect that the residents of Francia Sirpe were not kidnapped, but left for Honduras

voluntarily, and that Msgr Schlaeffer and the other religious persons accompanied them. The State Department requested that Nicaragua's Armed Forces allow them to reach Honduran territory.

At the same hour, in Tegucigalpa, spokesmen for the Somozist mercenaries who are established in Honduras presented similar reports on the criminal actions carried out in Francia Sirpe, in an attempt to blame the Nicaraguan Government for what happened to the residents and the religious persons.

These facts, which cannot be regarded as coincidences, once again confirm that the U.S. Government, acting through the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, is financing, organizing, and directing the mercenary forces that are daily attacking Nicaragua and murdering the Nicaraguan people.

The criminal actions perpetrated by Somozist mercenary forces on CIA orders are an attempt to undermine the Nicaraguan Government's efforts to reunite the Miskito family and to sabotage all the measures recently adopted by Nicaragua to promote peace in Central America.

The incidents in Francia Sirpe are part of the policy pursued by the Reagan administration against Nicaragua from the very outset, particularly in the manipulation and use of the Miskito communities. The absurd attempt to place the blame elsewhere is in accordance with plans drafted in advance to blame Nicaragua for such crimes, in order to promote greater aggressive schemes, including direct military intervention by the United States.

The information passed on by the U.S. ambassador and the statements made by the spokesmen for the mercenary forces, which serve the U.S. Government, prove the significant communication and coordination between the two, which is only possible when plans and actions are directed from one command center.

Havana Notes Obando's Statement

PA222253 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Managua Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo has repudiated the crime committed against Msgr Salvador Schlaeffer and has warned that the church undertakes very serious sanctions against those who kill one of its members. Obando y Bravo's statement is the first pronouncement by a member of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference on the hundreds of crimes committed by the counterrevolutionary forces.

The Junta of the Government of Nicaragua claims that the developments in Francia Sirpe and Msgr Schlaeffer's assassination fall within the framework of the new escalation that thousands of Somozist mercenaries, directed by the CIA, have launched from Honduras in the last few days.

Havana Reports EPS Move

P221850 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Troops of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] are expected to arrive today in the Wisconsin area near the Honduran border, where Bluefields bishop Msgr Salvador Schlaeffer was killed yesterday by counterrevolutionary elements. Schlaeffer, a U.S. citizen, three other clergymen, and nearly the entire population of Francia Sirpe were kidnapped by Somozist mercenaries from Honduras. As they were being taken by force into Honduran territory, Salvador Schlaeffer resisted his captors and was murdered.

Nicaraguan and foreign newsmen today left for the site where Schlaeffer was killed. He was one of the nine members of the Episcopal Conference of Managua.

The archbishop of Managua, Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo, repudiated the crime and warned that the church has strict sanctions for those who murder its members. His statement is the first pronouncement from a member of the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua on the hundreds of crimes committed by the counterrevolutionary forces. The Nicaraguan Government Junta said that the incidents of Francia Sirpe and the murder of the bishop are part of the new escalation started a few days ago from Honduras by thousands of Somozist mercenaries led by the CIA.

CHURCH OFFICIAL REPORTS TELEPHONE THREATS

PA220439 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0238 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Managua, 21 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Managua Archbishop Msgr Miguel Obando told ACAN-EFE today that he has been threatened over the telephone by unidentified persons in the last few days. In view of these threats, Nicaraguan Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge has offered the Catholic archbishop police protection. Regarding religious freedom in Nicaragua, the archbishop told ACAN-EFE: "We are not free to broadcast a mass directly over radio or television. We have no problems in celebrating the Eucharist, but we do encounter difficulties in broadcasting our pastoral message over the mass media."

MANAGUA CITES COORDINATING BOARD NEWS CONFERENCE

PA222133 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Erick Ramirez, executive secretary of the Sacasa Coordinating Board, told this station yesterday that the board is proposing that the government pardon those who are being detained for political reasons. He noted, however, that they are not interceding on behalf of the Somozist guardsmen who were condemned for committing genocide against our people. Ramirez, who is a leader of the Social Christian Party [PSC], stressed that they would agree to participate in the elections, if there is press freedom and if the revolutionary government's political opening is confirmed.

As for the beginning of the electoral process in January, Ramirez said that this step by the government appears to be positive, adding that they will study the government's measures and will make their own recommendations.

While the Somozist beasts, financed by the U.S. Government, come from Honduras to kidnap those who live in the border areas and continue to destroy the peasant cooperatives and kill our people, the members of the Sacasa Coordinating Board, at a news conference yesterday, announced the results, as they see them, of their European tour. At the PSC headquarters, they announced that they had toured five European countries and had met political leaders, media directors, and various government officials. While ignoring the state of war that the Reagan administration is imposing on us, the Coordinating Board members said that they want a pardon for political prisoners, claiming that this should not include the Somozist guardsmen who were sentenced for committing crimes against our people.

When told that an abnormal state prevails here due to the armed attacks that the Somozist bands coming from Honduras carry out in the border areas, Ramirez said that were the state of emergency abolished and a democratic opening successfully fought for, the contras would lose their reasons for continuing to attack our people.

COMMENTARY ON U.S. MOVE AGAINST DEATH SQUADS

FL220214 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Carlos Mora Herman commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has asked the Government of El Salvador to act forcefully against the so-called death squads, which are responsible for hundreds of deaths among the Salvadoran people. In a letter sent by Reagan to his Salvadoran counterpart, Alvaro Magana, he asked him to send the members of those groups into exile.

The letter was delivered by Vice President George Bush during his visit to San Salvador on 11 October. Bush included a list of names of individuals suspected of being members of the death squads, which must have been given to him by the Yankee Embassy.

Behind all this there is a dirty Washington maneuver. To date, the U.S. Embassy in Sal Salvador has been supporting these gangs of murderers, who operate with the approval of the government, Army, and the country's reactionary forces. Those paramilitary groups, to which officers of the regular Army belong, carry out the dirtiest jobs of imperialism, the CIA, and the national oligarchy. The maneuver is directed at using the topic of the death squads to introduce the Marines in El Salvador under the pretext of helping Magana's government democratize the country. Reagan's government appears to be determined to militarily resolve the Central American situation despite the increasingly stronger movement calling for a negotiated political solution within the framework proposed by the Contadora Group.

The despicable Grenada episode, condemned by nearly all countries in the world, contradictorily gave Reagan a domestic victory and constituted a decisive demonstration of the strength that the propaganda and information manipulation apparatus has in the United States. Reagan's image improved in the eyes of the majority of the people, which is important for his reelection plans. Apparently, Reagan does not now need to embark on a new military adventure in Central America, especially when the situation in the Middle East is becoming increasingly more difficult and complex. But the present U.S. Administration does not always act responsibly.

The maneuver of introducing the Marines in El Salvador, or even the military invasion of Nicaragua using all mercenaries trained by the CIA who have been operating from Honduras and Costa Rica, could become a reality any time soon. The Nicaraguan Government has taken steps which reject the arguments used by Washington to justify an armed intervention. The doors remain open for a negotiated and peaceful solution, the only reasonable and logical way out.

REPORT ON SECOND DAY OF ANPP MEETING IN HAVANA

FL221610 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] The second day of the fifth regular session of the second meeting of People's Government National Assembly [ANPP] is scheduled to discuss and approve the proposed 1984 economic and social development plan and a report on the international activity of the ANPP. The financial reports of the Council of Ministers and of the City of Havana People's Government Provincial Assembly on their activities for this year will also be discussed today.

At the opening session of the ANPP, at which Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party, was present, the decree laws on national symbols and the construction, preservation, and protection of roads were discussed. The ANPP also heard the Communications Ministry's report read before the plenum by Communications Minister Pedro Guelmes. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro expressed his opinion of the Communications Ministry's report in the following words:

[Begin Castro recording] It seems to me that the report is very well done. It presents all of the accomplishments, of which there are quite a few. Among them, I believe that the possibility for direct communication between the cities and the capitals is revolutionary, and soon we will have it between Havana and the rest of the country.

The Communications Ministry is not as it was in the past. Today it is concerned with problems of television and radio, mail distribution, assistance, and the charging of pensioners. They have an infinity of tasks. They are very great. However, [Castro changes thought] Moreover, the report not only reflects the successes, but it is also very critical. It very clearly points out all its deficiencies and problems.

The report also points out -- it has 20 points, 20 recommendations. The various comrades have spoken about various problems here which cause concern, because communications seem to have all these problems, which are very common. All this about telegrams, program schedules, mail, the time it arrives, telephones; thus, there is a high incidence of these problems and it is reflected here.

This plan points out the various problems. Evidently there are problems, one of which Guelmes' report points out, is related to the fact that they are charging the wrong people for long-distance telephone calls. Well, those are mistakes. I imagine a citizen or a family is furious when it is mistakenly charged 20 or 30 pesos for a long-distance telephone call.

Subjective factors were mentioned here, and it seems to me that [possibly PRELA correspondent Felix] Alvisu intended to point out some problems against which we still have to struggle to improve this service, as they are struggling in all fields, in the food industry, tourism, transportation, wherever, for better treatment, for a better job, for better service. We have to struggle hard.

I mean communications is very important for the service it lends, service of all kinds: The system arriving ...[Castro changes thought] the radio station arrives in Trinidad or in the southern Sierra Maestra or any place. And television is seen. This entire matter of communications is very important for the people and also for the state -- communications.

However, it is necessary to say that the ministry as well as the workers have made a great effort, because they have ...[Castro changes thought] It is a modest ministry and a modest minister. [end recording]

Havana City Report

FL222151 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2102 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] The delegates to the People's Government National Assembly [ANPP], which Commander in Chief Fidel Castro is attending, are now examing the report submitted by the Havana city government to the highest state body.

The document critically analyzes the capital's essential activities in the economic, political, and social fields. The report was previously discussed by the people in assembly meetings held in the different districts.

This morning the deputies approved the drafts on economic and social development and the Republic's budget, following a lengthy debate by the 474 deputies attending the meeting.

Deputy Fidel Castro noted the need for making the best use of all resources, working more and better, and giving correct and proper responses to all problems arising in the country.

More than 20 million pesos have been assigned to repair housing in the capital, the Havana city people's government notes in its report to the ANPP. The document, which was read by Oscar Fernandez Mell, points out the progress made in repairing streets in recent months, and adds that there are some difficulties that still remain in that process. In the past 5 years, Havana city's production grew at a yearly rate of more than 7 percent, and work productivity and commercial sales as well as export goods increased.

Since 1977 to the present, investments in the capital of the Republic have surpassed 3.9 billion pesos, and 46 important projects have been completed, the report to the ANPP states.

CASTRO RECEIVES UPPER VOLTAN FOREIGN MINISTER

FL221714 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received the foreign minister of Upper Volta, Hama Arba Diallo, who conveyed a fraternal message from the president of the National Council of the Revolution, Thomas Sankara.

Foreign Minister Hama Arba Diallo concluded his official and friendly visit to Cuba last night and was seen off at Havana's airport by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca.

During his stay in Cuba, Diallo signed five agreements dealing with economic, scientific and technical cooperation, cultural matters, the approval for establishing the Mixed Cooperation Committee, and an agreement on an exchange between the Foreign Ministries.

BARBADOS

BRIEFS

ROK OPENS EMBASSY -- The Republic of South Korea has established a resident diplomatic mission in Barbados. At the official opening of the Korean Embassy in the Barbados Mutual Life Building on Collymore Rock yesterday, Dr Young Ho Lee, [as published] special envoy and minister of sport in Korea, spoke of a strengthening of ties between his country and Barbados. Prior to yesterday, the Korean ambassador accredited to Barbados was Mr Choe Sang-chin, who was based in Kingston, Jamaica. It was he who suggested that Korea should have a separate embassy in Barbados. He will continue to be ambassador to Jamaica, while another envoy is expected here soon to look after affairs from Barbados and St Vincent. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 15 Dec 83 p 1 FL]

GRENADA

AID AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH GREAT BRITAIN

FL222312 Bridgetown CANA in English 2238 GMT 22 Dec 83

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 22 (CANA) -- Britain will take a decision early in the new year on the question of further aid to Grenada, British High Commissioner to St George's Giles Bullard said today.

"There is a meeting in Washington of aid donors to the Caribbean at which this matter (aid) would no doubt be looked at," the high commissioner said.

His remarks came shortly after Grenada and Britain signed an agreement here under which the Caribbean island is to receive 750,000 sterling (about 3 million East Caribbean dollars) in capital aid grants. The agreement was signed between the head of Grenada's caretaker government, Nicholas Brathwaite, and Giles Bullard, who is also the representative to Barbados and a number of other Caribbean countries. The grant was the first to Grenada since 1978, the year before a leftist group took power in a coup.

Bullard told reporters the British grant is expected to be used primarily on projects for electricity power generation, and the purchase of spare parts for vehicles at the public works department. Bullard said that the money, which would be available to Grenada only for the current British financial year ending in March, would be used for training and equipping the police force here and the provision of special police advisors to Grenada.

The British diplomat also stated that within the general framework of the agreement there would undoubtedly be a great deal of "precise negotiations" to be done between the two countries. "We had a team from the British development here in Grenada earlier this week who were talking to the planning department (of the Ministry of Finance, Trade, and Planning) to work out the exact details," he said.

Under the left-wing government of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, who was later killed in an October 19 military coup, the British Government virtually suspended the remainder of its independence package for the island. Britain is known to have voiced opposition privately to Mr Bishop's New Jewel Movement (NJM) about the manner in which it seized power in a coup against the pro-United States government of Eric Gairy.

ADVISORY COUNCIL WILL STRESS PRIVATE SECTOR ROLE

FL222104 Bridgetown CANA in English 1727 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 22, CANA -- Grenada's five-week-old interim administration will review the investment code of the deposed left-wing government which gave a high profile role to the state sector, official sources said. The People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) of Maurice Bishop said it believed in a mixed economy but stressed the predominant role for the state.

The sources said the interim government favoured greater prominence for the private sector in economic development of the island.

The PRG had accused the private sector of not investing in the economy.

Bishop was killed and ousted from power in an Army coup last October 19. U.S.-led forces invaded Grenada six days later to remove the short-lived military junta and restore elected government. The interim administration will rule Grenada until a vote is held next year.

VILLAGE COUNCIL SEEKS ASSOCIATION WITH U.S.

FL222123 Bridgetown CANA in English 1750 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 22 (CANA) -- A village council representative today said his organisation had obtained more than 6,000 signatures for a petition sent to Washington seeking some form of association with the United States.

Treasurer of the Pearls Village Council Guy Archibald said Grenadians were not satisfied that the political leadership was sufficiently capable of running the country, and the United States had been asked to prolong its stay here for at least five years.

Grenadian youths needed to be taught "democracy" before elections were held, he added. "We are asking that the Americans lengthen their stay here for another five years and form some sort of association with us until our young people can know what democracy is and what to do with elections," he said.

The village council official said the petition by eligible voters was delivered to Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon Tuesday for transmission to Washington. An interim administration, set up after the October 25 U.S.-led invasion that ousted a left-wing military junta, is presently running the country's affairs prior to the holding of a general election within a year. Elections have not been held here since 1976.

"...I think that if we go into elections very soon we will fall into the same problem like before because we are going to have the (former Prime Minister Eric) Gairy element coming around, you can't stop them from running for elections, maybe some element from the New Jewel Movement (NJM), and maybe the Grenada National Party, and some other fellows who evacuated here after the NJM takeover. They are coming back probably to get us into socialism again, a stepping stone to communism."

Archibald said he did not know what Washington would think of offering Grenada an association similar to that with the U.S. Virgin Islands or Puerto Rico. But, he said, a referendum should be held in Grenada to find out what the people think because "everybody is thinking they would like to be with America somehow or other."

JAMAICA

MANLEY SAYS PNP MEMBERS CANNOT ACCEPT OFFERS

FL221512 Bridgetown CANA in English 1716 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 22 (CANA) -- The People's National Party (PNP), which boycotted last week's general elections, has told its members they would betray the cause of democracy in accepting offers of appointment to the Senate (upper house).

Prime Minister Edward Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) controls all 60 seats in the House of Representatives (lower house) following the PNP decision not to contest the poll. With no opposition leader, the prime minister, in addition to the 13 he would name in his own right, has the power to nominate the eight senators who would sit on the opposition benches. Seaga has said he intends to appoint people of national stature who had no connection with the JLP.

PNP leader Michael Manley said last night that persons who had been identified with his party "over the years" were being pressured to accept Senate seats. "We wish to state that any such person who might be persuaded to accept will not do so in the name of the People's National Party, nor will such persons represent the views of the party which will regard any such action as a betrayal of the cause of democracy," Manley said.

The PNP said it stayed out of the election because the poll was called on the basis of a three-year-old voters register that disfranchised approximately 15 per cent of the potential electorate while containing the names of about 100,000 people who had either died, emigrated, or were in prison. Further, it said, the government reneged on a pledge by both parties in 1980 that no further general elections would be called here without the implementaton of reform to minimise electoral fraud.

An opinion poll this week showed that had the PNP contested the election it would have made significant inroads on the government's parliamentary majority; with a new voters list the PNP would have won, taking 55 per cent of the popular vote, the poll showed.

Manley said he denounced the attempts to pressure people to accept Senate appointments and was doing so on the behalf of the people entitled to be on the voters list and who now supported the PNP. Manley did not name the people who were being allegedly pressured to accept Senate seats and government officials would not say whom Seaga had in mind.

"The only course of action that can restore the legitimacy of our democracy and the democratic process is the holding of a proper election on the new electoral list as soon as the ID-cards with photographs have been distributed in accordance with the agreed programme of electoral reform," he said.

BOLIVIA

ENVOY SEEKS ARGENTINE PAYMENT OF GAS SALE DEBT

PY221246 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Arturo Nunez del Prado, economic adviser to the president, left yesterday for Buenos Aires in order to request payment for gas sales from the Argentine Government. The official said regarding his trip: I am going to Buenos Aires again to negotiate the payment of the gas sale debt. Last time it could not be done, because President Alfonsin's government was only just being informed about Argentina's economic and financial situation.

He explained that the Bolivian Government has received a telex in which it is stated that the conditions have been met to negotiate the terms of payment of the debt owed by the Argentine Government Oil Deposits to our country. Nunez del Prado said: I expect to finish the negotiations in 1 week or 10 days.

According to official sources, the Argentine Government debt totals over $280 million, because since January no regular payments and only some partial payments which do not cover the Bolivian needs for foreign currencies have been made. Nunez del Prado said: Right now we urgently need those $280 million. They are of vital importance to maintain the productive sector, because we are running the risk that our industry may come to a standstill of lack for foreign currencies. We also have obligations pending in payments of interests and amortizations of the public and private foreign debt, contributions to international organizations, and other obligations in foreign currencies that cannot be met.

He added: The verbal agreements arrived at by Foreign Minister Jorge Ortiz Mercado were not fulfilled for various reasons, mainly of a political nature. Now that those problems have been overcome, we expect a better possibility of obtaining payment of the Argentine debt.

It was also reported that the possibility for Bolivia of contracting credits with international banking will also be negotiated; the credits should be paid entirely by Argentina on account of the natural gas debt.

MEXICO

SOLIDARITY COMMISSION LEADER ON C.A. CONFLICT

PA221620 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 19 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] Papalotla, Tlaxcala, 18 Dec -- Alvaro Lain, general coordinator of the National Commission of Solidarity with El Salvador [Commission Nacional de Solidaridad con El Salvador], said here today that since the United States considers Mexico to be a security area, in any armed conflict with the Central American countries U.S. soldiers would be deployed to the coast of Chiapas to control the oil fields.

Instead of having a calming effect on Mexicans, he added, the proximity of the United States should cause "dread," since in a war between the United States and Central America, Mexico would be used as a battlefield by the contenders. He also praised the efforts that Mexico and the Contadora Group are making for peace.

His visit to Papalotla, Lain said, is to establish in this leftist coalition city council a committee to aid the Salvadoran guerrillas. The committee will be chaired by Mayor Sidronio Lara Munoz.

PANAMA

EDITORIAL LAUDS LIBERALS' OPPOSITION ALLIANCE

PA221735 Panama City YA in Spanish 22 Dec 83 p 14

[Editorial: "The Opposition Alliance and the People"]

[Excerpts] The liberal parties are joining in a democratic alliance as an alternative to bring about a change in the life of the nation. Headed by antimilitarist, redeeming, and progressive leaders, this alliance will seek, through free elections, to consolidate important democratic victories for which the people have struggled during many long years of dictatorship. The Panamanian citizen will make common cause with such a democratic alliance, because it is the best formula for an answer to his chaotic situation: placing the nation's administration in the hands of true statesmen; turning responsibility for this government job over to those best suited.

Just as the North Americans, the Venezuelans, and the Argentines never forgave Ford for pardoning Nixon, Herrera Campins for pardoning Carlos Andres Perez, or justicialism for so many years of dictatorship, so will the Panamanian people, aware of their historic responsibility, make use of the vote as their main instrument to chastise those who supported, inspired, and fanatically defended a regime that violated all citizens' rights and public freedoms, that limited freedom of expression only to those papers that supported the government, that banished citizens, thatjailed adversaries of the government, and that violated the right of property and free transit.

The democratic union and the people concur in the need to eradicate all dictatorial traces, give the people back their freedom, restore the citizens' rights, consolidate property's social function, and promote reform truly designed to solve the social problems.

The people have not forgotten the recent past with its somber incidents. They cannot forget the oppression, and they will place an avalanche of votes at the polls to support those who represent a real change from a system devoid of popular warmth. Here in Panama the enemies of the people shall have their just reward, and next May the masses will do themselves justice.

URUGUAY

COLORADO PARTY WEEKLY ALLOWED TO CIRCULATE

PY230138 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] The weekly OPINAR, which is published by the Colorado Party faction led by Enrique Tarigo, will circulate tomorrow. The office of the police chief informed the printer that the weekly will be allowed to circulate.

The weeklies AQUI and ASAMBLEA will also circulate. After the two weeklies were censored, the editors were informed that the weeklies were to be allowed to circulate.

Meanwhile, CORREO DE LOS VIERNES and LA DEMOCRACIA will be printed tonight. Once the printing is finished, the issues will be subject to government censhorship and a decision on their circulation will be made.